

DELIBERATIVE PROCESS—DO NOT CITE OR SHARE

Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

Statement on Release of Final Assessment

DRAFT—FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

December XX, 2012,

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will continue work to complete the draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment into 2013.

EPA released a draft of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment in May 2012 for public comment and independent peer review. The Agency EPA received over 230,000 public comments and a detailed peer review document, which the Agency that it is referring to as the Agency it updates the assessment and makes it final. In addition, the Agency EPA will convene a group of qualified experts to review the revised draft assessment in light of the comments offered by the first peer review panel. The Agency has not determined the schedule, scope, related contracts, charge or methodology of this additional review.

No deadline for completing the assessment has been set.

EPA launched a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay Watershed in February 2011 in response to requests from federally-recognized tribal governments and other organizations in Alaska and elsewhere, who raised significant concerns about potential impacts of large-scale mining on Bristol Bay salmon fisheries.

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EPA released a draft of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment in May 2012 for public comment and independent peer review. The Agency is now updating the assessment in response to the almost 233,000 public comments we received, and the comments and suggestions received from our expert peer reviewers. The Agency plans to have a group of qualified experts review the revised draft assessment prior to completion of the assessment. The schedule, scope, or methodology of this additional review has not been determined.

No deadline for completing the assessment has been set.

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